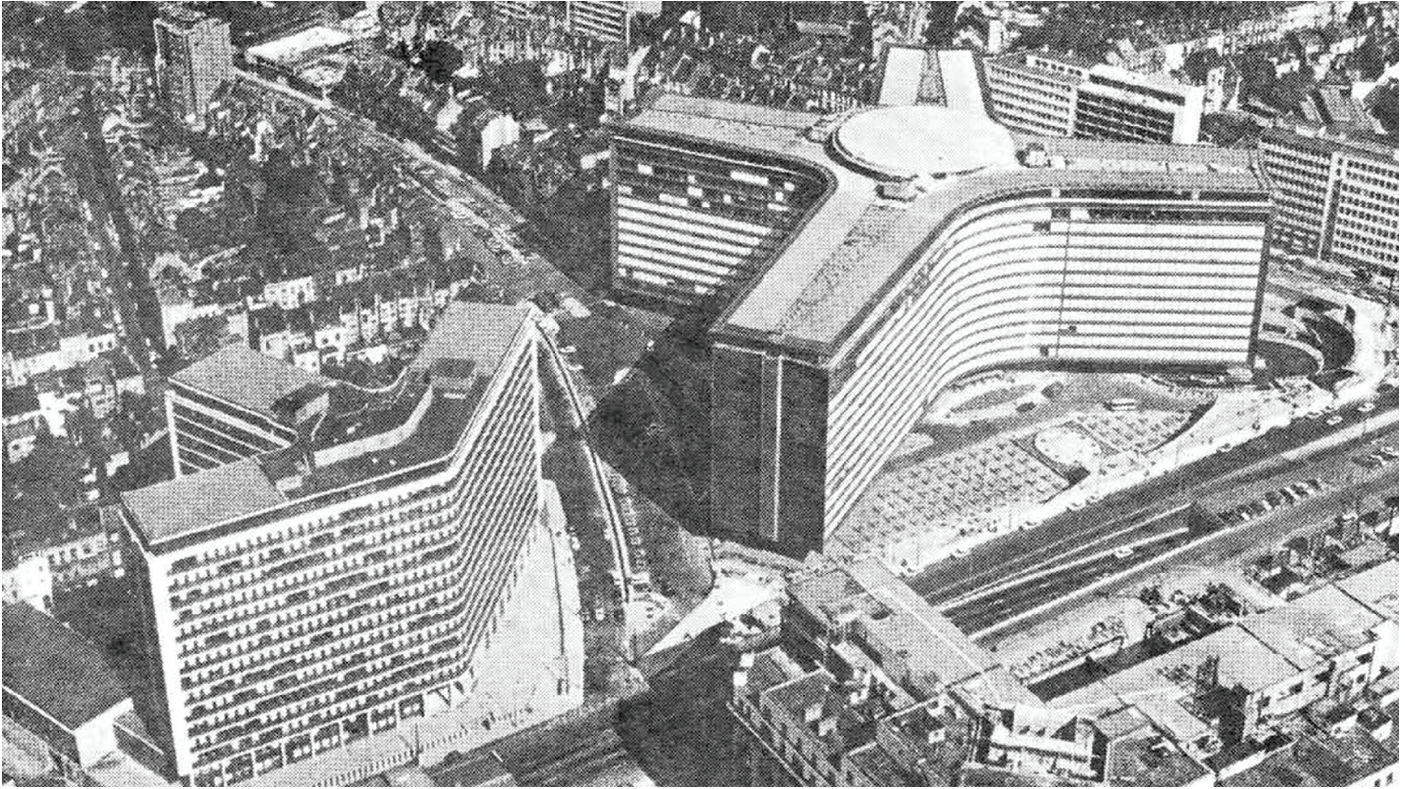

Is This



The Beast?

by Elder Jacob O. Meyer

Since the theory of evolution was advanced by Darwin in the latter 1800's, the trend has been for mankind to turn away from a personal faith in a Creator. Doubts about a life hereafter now saturate their minds. Man's religion (if any), has become mainly philosophical in nature as he turns his attention toward temporal, material pursuits.

Man is determined to control his personal environment completely so that he need no longer fear catastrophes such as disease epidemics,

pain, war, or other adversities that have troubled the human race. He even wants to control the weather to his own advantage.

Nevertheless, the mind of mortal man realizes that he needs a protector who is stronger and more powerful than a mere human, if he is to survive in this uncertain world. No man is an island. Neither has a system of anarchy ever worked nor could it work satisfactorily.

Having rejected the concept of an existing Mighty One, he will

naturally turn toward a physical government as a substitute for the Mighty One of the Scriptures. This human government will be assigned the obligation of caring for and protecting each individual against hostile forces in his environment, in place of the Almighty Heavenly Father and His righteous government.

Man innately realizes that in society he needs protection and services which only a government can offer. If you read the covenant which Almighty Yahweh made with Israel

(found in Exodus chapters 20- 23), you will find there the responsibilities of each person who accepts it.

But, this covenant is not a one-sided, unilateral agreement! **It is reciprocal.** When the individual promises to obey Almighty Yahweh and keep His laws he will receive something in return for his service to the Most High. Notice the following quote from Exodus 23:25-26. **“Worship Yahweh your Elohim, and He will bless your bread and your water. I will take away all sickness out of your midst. None shall miscarry or be barren in your land. I will grant you a full span of life.”** New English Bible (NEB).

Since mankind has largely rejected the covenant with Almighty Yahweh, the next step for him is to form a substitute government to maintain some control over the people. In times past, these governments have been relatively small (except for the few great empires), but in our present era the trends are toward expansionism. Industrial companies merge and enlarge, schools consolidate, religious organizations combine. Governments are no exception, as global girdling alliances are formed.

Underlying the merger of institutions lies the concept of control of large blocks of humanity by a few individuals. Now this concept is not entirely bad, since the government of the Kingdom of Yahweh is conceived in this manner. However, carnal man is not converted to have a mind of righteousness that produces correct actions, while Almighty Yahweh and His representatives are completely righteous in dealing with their subjects. Furthermore, size is no accurate criterion for judging an institution, although people usually tend to submit to their herd instinct in following a crowd.

Your Bible predicts that in the end times a **gigantic government** will arise that will attempt to control the world. This mammoth government will attempt to impose an era of peace, through human means,

but in the end it will be drawn into the most terrifying war in human history.

Have you understood these prophecies directly from the pages of your Bible? These predictions are recorded in the Word of Yahweh so that we might gain confidence as we face the future unafraid. These prophecies foretell events so that Yahweh's faithful True Worshipers will know the end from the beginning (Isaiah 46:10), and thereby acquire courage to face the future unafraid. They encourage us to keep our eyes on the Kingdom of Yahweh, that wonderful era lying just beyond the wreckage man will make of this earth as he rejects the Word of Yahweh while trying to rule himself. Let us scrutinize some of these prophecies more closely and relate them to developments taking place in our world today.

End-Time World Government Prophesied

After Israel had entered the Holy Land subsequent to their exodus from Egyptian bondage, they wanted to set up a king to rule over them just as did the other nations that surrounded them. They came to Samuel the prophet and demanded the right to establish a monarchy to rule their nation. Prior to this time Yahweh was the King and He alone ruled Israel. But Israel desired a visible monarch rather than an invisible, spirit ruler. Samuel was displeased because he knew that this kind of governmental structure was not pleasing to Yahweh. When he prayed, Yahweh answered, **“Listen to the people and all that they are saying; they have not rejected you, it is I Whom they have rejected, I Whom they will not have to be their King.”** 1 Samuel 8:7, NEB.

Then Almighty Yahweh proceeded to describe the unconverted conduct of the monarch that Israel would soon coronate. **“This will be the sort of king who will govern you,” he said. He will take your**

sons and make them serve in his chariots and with his cavalry, and will make them run before his chariot. Some he will appoint officers over units of a thousand and units of fifty. Others will plough his fields and reap his harvest; others again will make weapons of war and equipment for mounted troops. He will take your daughters for perfumers, cooks, and confectioners, and will seize the best of your corn-fields, vineyards, and olive-yards, and give them to his lackeys. He will take a tenth of your grain and your vintage to give to his eunuchs and lackeys. Your slaves, both men and women, and the best of your cattle and your asses he will seize and put to his own use. He will take a tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves will become his slaves. When that day comes, you will cry out against the king whom you have chosen; but it will be too late, Yahweh will not answer you,” 1 Samuel 8:11-18, NEB.

One would think that Israel had thoroughly learned their lesson in Egypt and would not again allow themselves to become enslaved. Perhaps they relied upon the fact that this king would be one of their own brethren, *a fellow Israelite*. However, Solomon partially fulfilled the prophecy above in many respects during his reign because he did not remain humble and obey the instructions given to the king in Deuteronomy 17:14-20.

Israel had the tendency to copy the idolatrous traditions and corrupt customs of the nations around them, rather than to adhere strictly to the ways of Yahweh. Assimilating these heathen customs and traditions diverted them away from Yahweh and caused them to take on the characteristics of other nations.

Almighty Yahweh had selected Israel to be the model for other nations to follow. He intended Israel to portray to the world the benefits of commandment keeping. Yahweh intended them to perform the du-



Flag of the European Union

ties of a teaching priesthood to all nations of the world. Their minds and attitudes were to be totally different from the nations around them (a converted attitude). As they lived a righteous life, they would receive blessings for keeping Yahweh's commandments, rather than to be cursed for disobedience as are the worldly nations.

Paradoxically, instead of fulfilling their mission, Israel followed the ways of the world. One of those ways was to assimilate the worldly style of government which had already been proved wrong from their Egyptian bondage. But worldly government, although derived from Satan, appears alluring, just as Yahweh analyzes the situation in the following quote.

“And Oholah played the harlot when she was mine; and she doted on her lovers, on the Assyrians her neighbors, who were clothed with blue, governors and rulers, all of them desirable young men, horsemen riding upon horses. And she bestowed her whoredoms upon them, the choicest men of Assyria all of them; and on whomever she doted, with all their idols she defiled herself. Neither has she

left her whoredoms since the days of Egypt; for in her youth they lay with her, and they handled the bosom of her virginity; and they poured out their whoredom upon her. Therefore I delivered her into the hand of her lovers, into the hand of the Assyrians, upon whom she doted. These uncovered her nakedness; they took her sons and her daughters; and her they killed with the sword: and she became a byword among women; for they executed judgments upon her.” (Ezekiel 23:5-10).

Read the entire chapter and see how these warnings apply so accurately to our day.

Let us look at some examples of worldly government that are found in the Bible. First of all, we must realize that when one has rejected the government of Almighty Yahweh he will be looking toward the *mighty one of this world* to watch over him. ***“And even if our message of good tidings is veiled, it is veiled in them that perish: in whom the Mighty One of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that the light of the good tidings of the glory of the Messiah, who is the image of Elohim, should not dawn upon them,”*** 2 Corinthians 4:3-4.

It is *Satan* who has replaced **YAHWEH** as the Mighty One of this world and the people today unknowingly or unthinkingly seek his rulership. Satan intends to counterfeit Yahweh's system of government. Satan's method is to introduce a doctrine of rejection of the commandments of Yahweh in whole or part while still using the Bible in worship. By rejecting the commandments of Yahweh, the constitution of His righteous government, the nations will follow the philosophy of Satan with rebellion against Yahweh's authority. Undermine the commandments of Yahweh, however, and no restraint remains to fulfilling the unbridled lusts saturating the human heart.

The First King That Replaced Yahweh

When Adam and Eve were placed in the garden of Eden they were given dominion (rulership) over the garden and this rulership was eventually to be extended to all the earth as their descendants multiplied, Genesis 1:28. This means that Adam was to be a vassal king under Yahweh. Satan immediately entered the picture and influenced Adam and Eve to follow him in a conspiratorial rejection of the government of Almighty Yahweh. Consequently, the Heavenly Father rejected the first man and woman and evicted them from the beautiful environment of the garden of Eden, forcing them as a punishment to make their own way on this cruel earth. Nevertheless, Yahweh promised the human race a Messiah to be born of the seed of the woman who would crush the head of Satan and become the Savior of the world, Genesis 3: 15.

Adam and Eve had two sons, named Cain and Abel. Cain, the firstborn, followed the line of Adam and was to be the one through whom the Messiah would come, but he developed into a wicked man. He was so wicked that he killed his own brother Abel and then tried to hide the fact. Yahweh rejected the Cain line and this is the wicked family of People that was destroyed in the flood.

The Messianic lineage was consequently to come through Seth, the third son born to Adam and Eve. Cain actually began the system of government in opposition to Yahweh by building a city for his descendants which he named after his son Enoch (the name means teaching or initiation in Hebrew), Genesis 4:17. We do not know why Cain built the city, but it may have been his way of constructing protection for himself and his family and to keep them together under his influence, since he feared the judgment of Yahweh, Genesis 4:13-16.

The Origin of the False Messiah

After the flood a false Messiah appeared. He was from the family of Ham. Let us read the recorded history in Genesis 10:8-12, NEB

“Cush was the father of Nimrod, who began to show himself a man of might on the earth; and he was a mighty hunter before [in opposition to] Yahweh, as the saying goes, ‘Like Nimrod, a mighty hunter before [in opposition to] Yahweh.’ His kingdom in the beginning consisted of Babel, Erech, and Accad, all of them in the land of Shinar. From that land he migrated to Asshur and built Nineveh, Rehoboth-Ir, Calah, and Resen, a great city between Nineveh and Calah.”

Here we have the accurate historical record of a kingdom being created by a man who claimed to be **a mighty one** in the earth. This man, Nimrod, was a mighty hunter of men **in opposition to Yahweh**.

Must we marvel that so few people today will accept the Kingdom government of Yahweh? A doctrine in opposition to Yahweh’s law is **ALWAYS** more pleasing to the CARNAL NATURE of man than to be humbly obedient to the Heavenly Father. Nimrod hunted men for his kingdom through rebellion against Yahweh’s covenant laws. Rather than adhering to Almighty Yahweh and building His worship, Nimrod desired worship for himself and so he hunted men to populate his kingdom. He set himself up to be the Messiah of his day.

The very same concept can be seen from Isaiah 14: 12-23 and Ezekiel 28:11-19, which serve as Yahweh’s warnings concerning the opposing kingdom of Satan, which opposes the Kingdom of Yahweh.

It was from this original attempt of a human being to build a kingdom in opposition to Almighty Yahweh that the religions of the world today are derived. Nimrod and Semiramis, his wife, originated doctrines and established a worship contrary to what

Even today we can see that the modern prophets of the Most High are calling His people back to pure worship.

is taught in the Inspired Scriptures. These doctrines have come down to us through traditional churchianity, and other religions, and are today the binding force of humanity among the nations of the world.

These were the doctrines that the prophets of Yahweh warned Israel against assimilating. Inasmuch as Israel refused to heed the warning of Yahweh’s servants, they gradually incorporated these false doctrines and eventually paid for their abominable deviation when Yahweh sent them into Assyrian and Babylonian captivity. Israel was taken captive by the same nations whose customs they had copied and whose founder was Nimrod, the arch-rebel against Yahweh.

The Ten Tribes in Assyrian Captivity

Let us take into account the history of the Israelite nation of the ten northern tribes. They sinned against Yahweh and He delivered them to a foreign nation. They began looking toward human saviors and erroneous idolatrous practices in a worship which angered Yahweh. Notice how the prophet Hosea describes this apostasy. In chapter 7, verses 10-16 we read, ***“And the pride of Israel does testify to his face: yet they have not returned to Yahweh their Elohim, nor sought him, for all this. And Ephraim is like a silly dove, without understanding: they call to Egypt, they go***

to Assyria. When they shall go, I will spread my net upon them; I will bring them down as the birds of the heavens; I will chastise them, as their congregation has heard. Woe to them! For they have wandered from me; destruction to them! For they have trespassed against me: though I would redeem them, yet they have not cried to me with their heart, but they howl upon their beds: they assemble themselves for grain and new wine; they rebel against me. Though I have taught and strengthened their arms, yet do they turn, but not to him that is on high; they are like a deceitful bow; their princes shall fall by the sword for the rage of their tongue: this shall be their derision in the land of Egypt.”

Here was a people who had been miraculously released from Egypt, but they were **backsliding** and bent upon returning to the idolatrous worship of their former enslaved condition. Yahweh had told Israel in Exodus 12:12 that He would execute judgment against the elohim (idols) of Egypt. Israel apparently did not remember the importance of the great Passover day when Yahweh took the life of all of the firstborn in the land of Egypt. They repeatedly returned to the traditional worship they had supposedly left behind.

Egypt was a part of Nimrod’s empire since he was said to have moved from Mesopotamia into Egypt later in life. See Hislop’s **The Two Babylons**, pp. 12-13 and 40-46. Since the Assyrian empire had originated with Nimrod’s rebellion against Yahweh and since the worship of Egypt, Assyria and Babylon were similar, except for the names employed in worship, the reason why Yahweh used Assyria to punish wayward Israel is obvious. They were punished by a people whose worship they had assimilated.

Let us notice also that Yahweh says, ***“They return, but not to the Most High.”*** Even today we can see that the modern prophets of the

Most High are calling His people back to pure worship. But how many people respond by separating themselves completely from the false worship of worldly religion? Some people may accept various sound doctrines of the Bible, but unless they worship Yahweh and eliminate the names of the Baals from their vocabulary, **they have not returned to the true Mighty One, Yahweh the Most High.** Nor have they returned to Yahweh when they do not keep His commandments. Breaking Yahweh's commandments make the disobedient ones sinners (1 John 3:4), who will not receive the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:32).

The writer of 2 Kings 17 has recorded the indictment of Yahweh against His people, the House of Israel. It is found in verses 6-18. Let us read it carefully and realize that this passage constitutes a solemn warning for us in our time.

"In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria took Samaria, and carried Israel away to Assyria, and placed them in Halah, and on the Habor, the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes. And it was so, because the children of Israel had sinned against Yahweh their Elohim, who brought them up out of the land of Egypt from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and had feared other elohim, and WALKED IN THE STATUTES OF THE NATIONS, whom Yahweh cast out from before the children of Israel, and of the kings of Israel, which they made. And the children of Israel did secretly things that were not right against Yahweh their Elohim: and they built for themselves high places in all their cities, from the tower of the watchmen to the fortified city: and they set up pillars for themselves and Asherim upon every high hill, and under every green tree, and there they burnt incense in all the high places, as did the nations whom Yahweh carried away before them, and

they worked wicked things to provoke Yahweh to anger; and they served idols of which Yahweh had said to them, You shall not do this thing. Yet Yahweh testified to Israel, and to Judah, by every prophet. Nevertheless, they would not hear, but hardened their neck, like the neck of their fathers, and his testimonies which he testified to them; and they followed vanity, and became vain, and went after the nations that were around them, concerning whom Yahweh had charged them that they should not do like them. And they forsook all the commandments of Yahweh their Elohim, and made molten images for themselves, even two calves, and made an Asherah and worshiped all the host of heaven, and served Baal. And they caused their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire, and used divination and enchantments, and sold themselves to do that which was evil in the sight of Yahweh, to provoke him to anger. Therefore Yahweh was very angry with Israel, and removed them out of his sight: there was none left but the tribe of Judah only."

Judah Followed Israel, Rejecting Yahweh's Rule

Although Yahweh had warned Judah (the southern nation comprising the two tribes surrounding the Temple in Jerusalem, the tribes of Judah and Benjamin) they ignored His warning. They began to assimilate the worship of the Babylonians and eventually found themselves in captivity in Babylon. The prophet Jeremiah deals especially with Yahweh's warning to Judah and how it was rejected by the people. The worship of the Babylonians was appealing to Judah and they incorporated some of those traditions into their worship, Ezekiel 23. Consequently, Judah went into Babylonian captivity.

The book of Daniel was written

by a man who was taken into that Babylonian captivity. It describes how those captives who remained faithful to Yahweh did not capitulate to the enticing Babylonian culture, but they received protection from Yahweh as they stood resolutely for His truth.

Here is a lesson for us in our time. Although we find ourselves living in an environment not of our making, a society that adheres to pagan Babylonish practices that were handed down to us from many generations ago, we, the members of the Assemblies of Yahweh, study the Bible and seek to eliminate the stigma of paganism from our lives. We do this to please Almighty Yahweh so that He will receive us as His children. We voluntarily accept the government of Almighty Yahweh in our lives and we reject the government under the domination of Satan who is the power behind the governments of this world.

The prophet Daniel found himself in Babylon but he continued to serve Almighty Yahweh. He endured many trials to remain obedient to his faith. While in Babylon, Almighty Yahweh gave him visions of things to come. Here is revealed the relationship of the book of Daniel to our time, the last days.

Daniel, chapter 2, records one of the most thrilling prophecies of the book. It was in this chapter that Daniel interpreted the vision of a ferocious metallic image for Nebuchadnezzar. Here is found the prediction that a system of world governments would arise with Babylon as the head. Babylon, the head, was constituted of fine gold. This is indeed significant.

The head is the part of the anatomy that controls the remainder of the body by performing the thinking process for it. Furthermore, is it not the goal of worldly people to acquire gold? Is not worldly politics subservient to economics and finance? Today the governments of this world constitute one aspect of a modern Babylonish system. They adhere to the ancient Babylonian

religion. They are controlled by the Babylonian-type government that has come down through the ages.

Daniel's dream outlines a progression of world-ruling empires that would follow Babylon. Second in this line of world-ruling empires following Babylon would be Media-Persia. Media-Persia conquered Babylon and established an empire that ruled in the Middle East until the conquest of Alexander the Great and his Grecian empire. Following the Grecian empire came the rise of Rome—a truly awesome, powerful empire of gigantic dimensions which ruled over the Mediterranean area of the world for about seven hundred years.

The Roman Empire finally separated into two parts (depicted by the two legs of the image) as capitols were established at Rome and Constantinople. Eventually, from this empire were to come ten toes that would rule until Almighty Yahweh would set up His Kingdom on this earth and smash the metallic image into powder and dust.

Daniel, chapter 7, provides an-

other aspect of this prophecy, but from a different viewpoint. Here Daniel was shown a progression of beasts which represented the four great world-ruling empires that related to the Land of Israel—Babylon, Media Persia, Greece, and Rome. (Remember, Assyria was already past at the time Daniel saw these visions.) The fourth beast was dreadful and terrible and had great iron teeth. It stamped down the people with its feet and it had ten horns. Horns are the symbol of power and they correspond to the ten toes of Daniel chapter two. These ten horns will be ruling when Yahshua the Messiah returns and the saints of the Most High take the Kingdom and rule in the Kingdom from then on, forever and ever.

Revelation 13 harmonizes completely with these prophecies. You will notice that the basic thrust of both prophecies is identical. Daniel saw four winds striving upon or converging upon the great sea. Although the sea can be construed as masses of people, Isaiah 57:20, it must be literally understood as

nations situated in a certain specific locality. This great sea is none other than the Mediterranean.

John, in Revelation 13, said that he was standing on the sand of the sea when he saw a great beast (comparing to the last one of Daniel 7), coming up out of the sea. John was standing on the Island of Patmos when he saw this vision, Revelation 1:9. The Island of Patmos is located in the lower Aegean. John was looking down across the expanse of the Mediterranean Sea. This great waterway has been called by some historians, "The Main street of the Roman Empire." It carried most of the commerce between Rome and her colonies. The Roman Empire was located on land accessible to the Mediterranean (for the most part).

Consequently, both prophecies, **Daniel 7 and Revelation 13**, are dealing with the same situation—the Roman Empire—and its reconstitution in the last days.

We must recall that Rome conquered and ruled vast land areas around the Mediterranean Sea. The Roman Empire, at her height, also controlled the Atlantic coastline of western Europe, most of the British Isles, France, most of Germany, along with the Balkan nations, in addition to the areas surrounding the Mediterranean. When the Roman Empire finally collapsed, the western European nations continued to recognize their roots in Rome and they called themselves the Holy Roman Empire.

The Beast (Revelation 13:1-2)



What Is a Beast?

Many Bible readers become terrified when they read some of these prophecies and encounter descriptions of "beasts." This is frightening to those who do not understand that **a beast merely symbolizes or represents a government.**

Please turn to Daniel 7:17-18. We read there, ***"These great BEASTS, which are four, are four KINGS, that shall arise out of the earth. But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom, and***

possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever." A beast in Bible prophecy represents a kingdom or nation.

A king rules over a kingdom. The Hebrew word "**Malkuth**" has been translated **kingdom** and could well be translated **empire** in this instance. Babylon, Media-Persia, Greece, and Rome were ruled by emperors. They were great beasts or gigantic governments. They held sway over many surrounding nations.

Let us understand that **beasts** means *governments* and **not churches**. **Some prophetic students have somehow transferred the biblically defined term "beast" to mean *ch-rch*, which it does not.** Daniel 2:37-39 indicates that these governments are empires comprised of many smaller nations, ruled by an emperor, with vassal kings under his domination loyal to him. ***"You, O king, are king of kings, to whom the Elah of Heaven has given the kingdom, the power, and the strength, and the glory; and wherever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the birds of the heavens has he given into your hand, and has made you to rule over them all: you are the head of gold."***

The great harlot of Revelation 17 that rides on the beast is a spiritual organization. The beast is the worldly government on which the harlot rides. The contrast between religion and government can be clearly seen from this passage.

The Latter Days

The Roman Empire did continue down through time as the Holy Roman Empire. After Rome's destruction by the barbarian hordes it fell into desolation, which the Bible describes as a descent into the bottomless pit (the grave, destruction), Revelation 17:8. The idea of the world-ruling empire was kept alive down through the dark ages by the Holy Roman Empire, as European emperors, such as Charlemagne,

were installed into this office. These kings became protectors of the papacy, but subjected themselves to papal authority (the woman, "ch-rch," rode on the beast). However, the Bible shows that in the end days a group of nations (those descended from the Roman Empire) will be destroyed when Yahshua the Messiah returns.

Let us understand more clearly now. These prophecies indicate that just before Yahshua returns a gigantic government will arise made up of ten horns (powers) or ten toes. These ten powers will come together to form the beast. These ten powers need not be merely ten nations, but they can just as well be groups of nations. These nations will be centered in the area of Europe and the Mediterranean, as we have already seen. Most of them will have been originally a part of the Roman Empire. Recall that John was looking down the Mediterranean and seeing a vision of our times.

These ten nations or groups of nations (powers) will not be located exclusively in the Mediterranean area (just as the Roman Empire was not located merely along the Mediterranean shores), but the center of government will be there.

When we use the term "groups of nations" it is obvious that ethnic people, who were once unified as one family but later separated to become several different nations, must be considered as one nation or power. We must also realize that Europeans have been a colonizing people and undoubtedly various colonies which the European nations have planted in far-flung areas around the world, must be considered as one with the mother country. When Yahshua returns He will gather His people from *all around the earth*, from one end of heaven to the other, Matthew 24:31.

Again we must emphasize that both the prophet Daniel and the Apostle John were shown the same vision, but from the perspective of slightly different time frames. Both men saw the rise of the fan-

tastically powerful empire situated astride the Mediterranean Sea. John additionally saw only the final resurrection of the Roman Empire as it would appear in the time of the ten horns, in the last days at the close of man's age.

For someone to attempt to locate the beast (government) in another area of the world would be a grave error in the understanding of Bible prophecy. End-time Bible prophecies focus upon a resurrected Roman Empire, an empire that would arise after the lapse of a considerable period of time. It would not exist for a time as an actual government, but merely in a figurative spiritual way to unite various nations of Europe. To dominate by directing these national governments (the woman rides the beast), a Religious System will come into being. Its head or government, however, would be situated in what was once the geographic area of the Roman Empire, but it would include colonies that came out of Europe.

Notice the clear statement of Daniel 9:26. ***"And after that sixty-two weeks shall the anointed one be cut off, and shall have nothing; and THE PEOPLE OF THE PRINCE THAT SHALL COME shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end of it shall be with a flood, and even to the end shall be war; desolations are determined."*** Which nation destroyed the Holy City after Babylon had done so? Obviously it was Rome, who did so in 70 C.E. Therefore, from Rome will come the last prince, the beast of Revelation.

The European Common Market

The western European nations have long considered themselves as the rightful rulers of the world. Even though the nations are small, their influence in world affairs has been exceedingly great. They traveled all over the world conquering and colonizing. After World War II they felt their influence slipping

as they stood between the two giants, Russia on the east and United States on the West. Without unity they knew it would be impossible to exist any longer since they would be gobbled up by one or the other. Western Europe sensed that they could easily become the forthcoming battleground of a horribly destructive war between the east and west.

The European nations had learned the lesson—united we stand, divided we fall. As a consequence, a movement was begun to unite the nations of Europe into an integrated government of combined nations that would be able to make its voice heard in international diplomatic circles.

This idea of a European Community of nations was originated by Dr. Paul Henri Spaak, a French economist. He envisioned a trading community of European nations

that would unite, first for economic reasons, but would later turn their attention toward political matters.

The European Economic Community was established by the treaty of Rome, March 25, 1957, which took effect January 1, 1958. It was an outgrowth of the European Coal and Steel Community. Under the treaty of Brussels, effective July 1, 1967, the policy-making bodies of the E.E.C. were merged with the European Coal and Steel Community. European statesmen apparently felt that a beginning should be made for integration of the member nations and then shift their attention into the political sector. An *all European Parliament* now meets with a **premier** at its head (an actual woman, Simmone Vail rides the beast today).

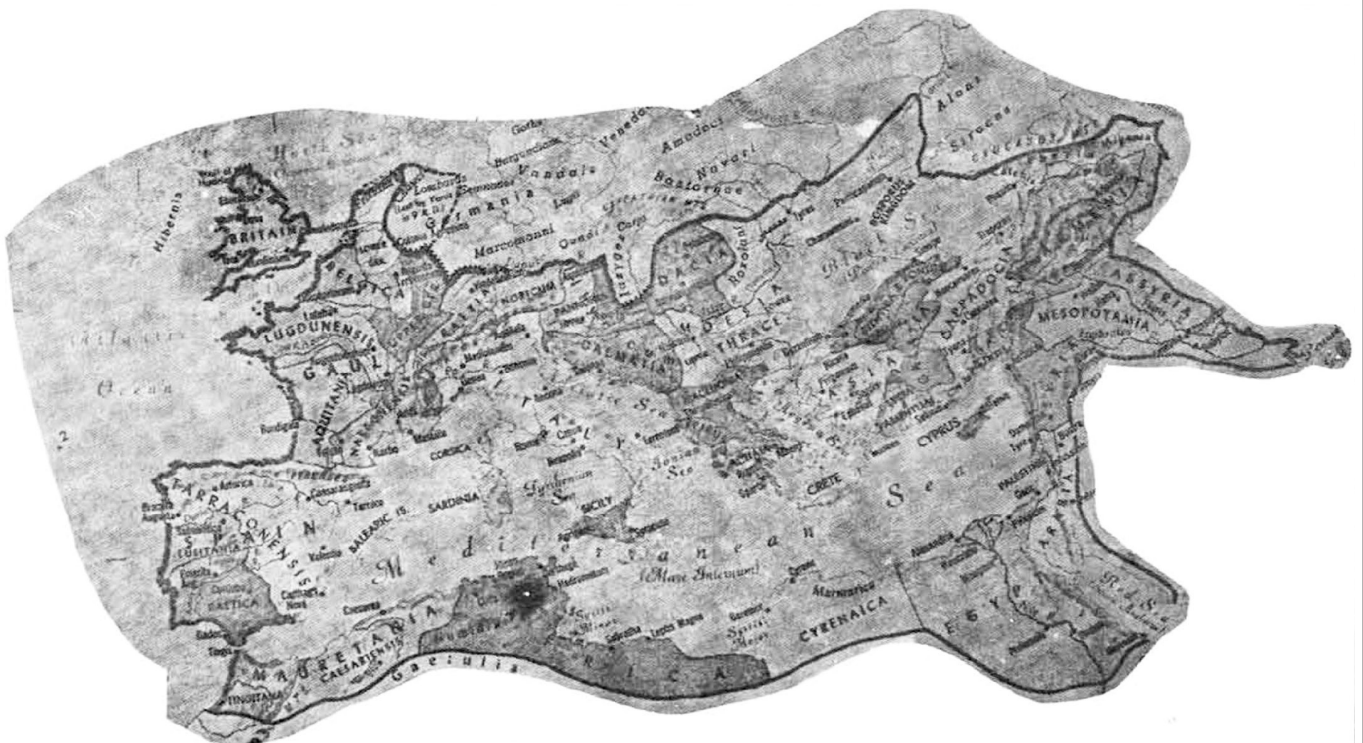
Let us look carefully at the roots of the Common Market. The European Economic Community

was begun by the treaty of Rome. Consequently, one need not be shocked to view this organization as a revival of the Roman Empire. The treaty of Rome apparently had the blessing of the Roman Catholic Pope Pius XII. The headquarters of E.E.C. organization was set up later at Brussels, which is in the **geographic center of Europe. Belgium had been a part of the old Roman Empire.** It was also a part of the Holy Roman Empire. It is presently ruled by King Baudoin, who is of the Royal House of Saxe-Coburg. The Belgian government is a constitutional monarchy. It is in Brussels that the headquarters of the Common Market is situated.

Six nations originated the European Economic Community, also called E.E.C. and the Common Market. They were Belgium, Netherlands, Luxemburg, France, Italy,

Can you recognize the beast?

It looks like an animal, doesn't it? Look closely and you will recognize the Roman Empire at its greatest extent. It was this "beast" that the prophet Daniel and the Apostle John saw. But the end-time "beast" will awe the world because it will be even grander, incorporating nations which are colonies of this beast.



and West Germany. Since 1958 six other nations have joined the Common Market. They are: The United Kingdom (England), Denmark, Ireland, and Greece. Spain and Portugal were recently granted membership. Currently 61 nations are considered associates. Norway had also been approved as a member but the people rejected the proposed entry by a referendum. Among associate members of the Common Market are Turkey, Cyprus, Malta, and 24 African countries. Negotiations also are underway to bring in the other nations of the European Free Trade Association.

It is obvious to the alert observer that this rising government is being centered around the Mediterranean Sea. The E.E.C. today includes a great deal of the area once dominated by the original Roman Empire. We cannot overlook this significant fact because it is vital to our understanding of Bible prophecy.

Some years ago, ministers who are teachers of Bible prophecy maintained that England would not be a part of the Common Market. The author of this article has always declared that England would indeed be included in the Common Market because it had once been a part of the Roman Empire. And this is only one reason out of several that brought us to this conclusion. The British people have been involved for centuries in world politics, and therefore it was imperative that they also become a part of the Common Market so that their influence could be extended there also. The British people are descendants of the ten lost tribes of Israel (as are most western European peoples), and therefore they will indeed be a part of the end-time beast of Revelation 13.

But, let us not forget the colonies that have come out of this mother country—the United States, Canada, Australia, Republic of South Africa, Rhodesia, and others. When the final beast emerges, in all of its power and might, these nations will also have some part to play in it. The

prophecy indicates that the beast would have ten horns (powers) not merely be 10 nations.

A Unified Economic Common Monetary Policy

If you have noticed the articles in your newspapers recently you will have seen references to the intention of the Common Market to institute a common currency which will further unite the nations of Europe and supposedly stabilize economics. This new monetary unity has sometimes been designated “the snake.” Its proper name is ECU (European Currency Units). According to European sources, ECU will take on a significant role in a reformed global money system. See the **Europe Magazine**, 5/1986 issue.

It was in 1945 that the International Monetary Fund was established to assist member nations in trading and maintaining financial stability. The nations involved as lenders are the Western industrial nations, some of whom are involved in the Common Market today. All of these factors combine to draw together nations that are involved in foreign trade with each other. A common currency will take the Western World just one step further along the road to the formation of the beast government prophesied in Revelation 13.

The trend toward unity is also taking the direction of a universal standard of measure. For some time the metric system has been the standard of measure in the nations of Europe. Now it is being urged upon the United States also. Proponents of the metric system declare that it will encourage trade when all measurements worldwide will be standardized. They neglect to tell us that it will cost billions of dollars to inaugurate the system here in America and will provide an ideal climate for avaricious businessmen to raise prices on goods being sold to an unsuspecting and uneducated public. Making the ephah small (the measure small) and the shekel

great (currency) was prophesied in Amos 8:5.

Political Unity

The first direct elections for a European Parliament were held in 1978 and from this election emerged a European prime minister. Subsequent to these elections the final phase of the integration of European nations into a unified government will become complete. The sinister forces at work in the world today can almost be described in terms of the biblical frogs (Revelation 12:9).

It is obvious that over the past decade or more the trends in the United States have been to bring this country down to a lower position of relative importance among nations. The reason for this trend is undoubtedly so that our once great nation could be integrated into a world government with little difficulty.

When the **League of Nations** was formed after World War I, the people of the United States resisted the efforts of the internationalist politicians to include our country. Although we entered the United Nations after World War II, this organization, dedicated to world government, has proven itself ineffective in halting wars. Now the trends are toward the unity of industrial nations of the Western World.

A very interesting clipping arrived some time ago at the Home Offices of the Assemblies of Yahweh. This clipping will be quoted as follows: ***“The Atlantic Union Resolution was passed in the Senate during the last Congress, and barely failed (197 to 210) in the House of Representatives. It is now once again under consideration and already has more than 100 sponsors in the House. If passed, the Atlantic Union Resolution would permit a delegation of eighteen American citizens to meet with representatives of foreign governments to: a) declare that the goal of the American people is to surrender the sovereignty of the United States to a central***

This picture shows a ground view of the Euromart Headquarters building (also shown in aerial view on page 1).

Note the distinctive design in the shape of the cross, which coupled with its adjacent annex includes the male and female biological sex symbols.



internationalist authority; b) set a timetable for various stages of that surrender; and, c) agree on a formal written warrant granting the power to perform acts that would hasten the process.”

And so you can observe that the United States is moving ever closer to being included in an Atlantic Union of nations that will eventually emerge from the European Common Market integration of industrial and trading nations. The **NATO** (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) has firmly bound us together in mutual defense. The European nations have certainly reaffirmed their commitment to NATO, as during the Spanish election recently. The trends are unmistakable and ***if they continue as presently we will see the beast emerging soon, possibly within another decade or so.*** However, setbacks can occur in the plans of the internationalist planners who are the major proponents of world government.

The Role of Religion in World Government

One would hardly imagine that a world government could take on a religious significance. However, we must remember that humanism is today the rising religion of much of the world. Since the advent of the doctrine of evolution, which has made such a deep impression upon our society, the importance of the Bible and its message has

been minimized. But mankind still realizes that they need a protector.

Consequently, a substitution has been made through which government now plays the role of the Almighty. The nations of Europe have been growing progressively more socialistic in political and economic philosophy during the present century and the European Economic Community is hastening the process toward the new socialist world order.

The United States is no exception, but we are following meekly in the pathways of imported socialistic philosophy. Because of the substitution of government for a viable faith in Almighty Yahweh, it is not strange then, that the headquarters building of the Common Market is **constructed in the shape of a cross.**

Our visit to the Common Market headquarters in Brussels several years ago revealed quite a surprise. We were startled to observe that the design of the main headquarters office building is constructed in the shape of a cross (the sign of the female and ancient asherah phallic worship)! Could it be that the Common Market organization has now taken on a religious significance?

Certainly the use of the cross in this architectural design is not a coincidence. And then when we consider that the auxiliary office building has the shape of an arrow, the sign of the male, one must realize that any coincidental factor is

removed by this second structure taking on such significant design. Please look closely at the picture accompanying this article.

Religion And the Common Market

Do you know the significance of the cross in ancient worship? If you have never made a study of the history of this religious object, why not write to the Home Offices of the Assemblies of Yahweh here at Bethel, Pennsylvania, and request your free copy of our article on this subject. You will find it most enlightening when you relate it to the subject of the Common Market.

The Vatican has repeatedly called for European unity. This also is significant. Pope Paul has said years ago that he hopes that the Common Market Summit “may signal a step forward toward the unity of European peoples.” Surely we can see the fulfillment of prophecy as Rome rides upon the beast, Revelation 17:3-6.

Pope John Paul II has strongly urged Poland to break from Russia and ally themselves with the United States. It is also significant that such an eminent statesman as Charles DeGaulle designated Europe as extending to the Ural Mountains. Such a delineation would include European Russia.

Computer Power

With the advent of computer

technology since World War II we can see the possibility of a machine controlling and monitoring the people of the world. Occasionally, one hears of publications asserting that there is already a computer in operation at the Common Market headquarters building in Brussels with the capability of registering every man, woman, and child in the Western World. However, other reliable newspaper reports discount this assertion.

When we visited the Common Market headquarters we were unable to verify or disprove either of the reports. Consequently, we have not been able to prove the existence of such a computer as has been described.

However, even though such a computer is probably not yet in existence, the capability is certainly available with modern technology. It will require a computer to regulate and monitor the people of the beast government to the extent of knowing who is able to buy or sell.

We read in Revelation 13:15-17, ***“And it was given to him to give breath to it, even to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as should not worship the image of the beast should be killed. And he causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free and the bond, that there be given to them a mark on their hand, or on their forehead; and that no man should be able***

to buy or to sell, except he that has the mark, even the name of the beast, or the number of his name.”

For those who do not accept the mark of the beast there will be death and persecution. This harmonizes with the predictions of persecution and martyrdom that, Yahshua gave in His Olivet prophecy in Luke 21:16-17. We read here, ***“But you shall be delivered up even by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolk, and friends, and some of you shall they cause to be put to death. And you shall be hated of all men for my name’s sake.”***

For those people who do not submit to the dictates of the beast government, a time of severe trial will await them. Already legal precedents for another wave of genocide are being laid with the abortion legislation now on the books. (Does any human being have protected rights? Think about the principles and legal precedent that has been established.) This could lead to further legislation based upon the same principles applied against those who will choose to serve Yahweh rather than men, Acts 5:29.

Those **“religious fanatics”** who are “undesirables” in the era of the beast government will be killed, just as in past ages, because they cannot be a part of a worldly system opposed to scriptural law. ***“And when he had opened the fifth sea, I saw underneath the altar the souls of them that had been killed for the word of Yahweh, and for the***

testimony which they held: and they cried with a great voice, saying, How long, Oh Yahweh, the holy and true, do you not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? And there was given to each one a white robe; and it was said to them, that they should rest yet for a little time, until their fellow-servants also and their brethren, who should be killed even as they were should have fulfilled their course.” Revelation 6:9-11.

Since the nations of Europe already have a system in which each individual carries an identification card, a subsequent news item came as no surprise. From the meeting of the European Common Market delegates in Rome came a report that the Common Market countries are determined to overcome nationalistic and economic differences in order to unify the member nations. One way is to inaugurate a single passport for the entire European Economic Community. This will take the Common Market one step closer to complete control of each individual citizen. The scientific advances of man will eventually bring about his own enslavement in these last days. Now cards with computer chips are possible that will allow closer scrutiny of each person’s identification.

Conclusion

Although few people today can see the full extent which the merging of nations will reach in the last days, your Bible describes a great

St. Peter’s Cathedral, Rome. Note the heavy emphasis on phallic symbolism, especially evidenced by the obelisk in the foreground.



union of nations that will arise just before the Messiah returns. We must not be limited by thinking in terms of European governments alone, which is much too small in scope. We must keep in mind the prophecy that shows there will be ten united **powers**. This government will be centered in an area once ruled by the Roman Empire, but will include other areas also. Obviously, it is not a coincidence that the original treaty of this union of nations was made in Rome; and even today Rome plays a very important part in the negotiations.

We must remember that this end-time revival of the Roman Empire will include colonies that have come out of the European countries which were once a part of Rome. Therefore, this coming union of nations will ultimately perhaps be called "The Greater Atlantic Union." These combined nations will comprise the beast government and this will be the government which the Messiah will destroy when He returns to establish the Kingdom of Yahweh. The saints of the Most High will take this Kingdom and reign over it forever and ever, Daniel chapter 7.

The beast government will make virtual slaves of its subject peoples. It will dominate the individual to such an extent that the people will be working day and night to satisfy the beast's demands.

Undoubtedly the book of Revelation describes a wartime situation. The beast government will oppose the eastern (Asian) nations in a conflict so great in scope that each side will raise armies in the hundreds of millions of men. Please see Revelation 16:12. This war will end at the Battle of Armageddon when the Messiah returns to establish the Kingdom of Yahweh on this earth and He destroys the belligerent armies.

What lies just ahead for the people of our world today? We can expect the Internationalists, who are in reality the International Bankers, to continue their insistence that a huge government of western nations be formed to ensure peace on

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earth. The insistence that a strong government be established will undoubtedly reach a rising crescendo due to an international incident of some kind, possibly a war in the Middle East wherein atomic weapons will be used. The International Bankers do not wish to see their worldwide property destroyed. They intend to maintain control over the world by manipulation of the people through the propaganda that they constantly pour into the news media. Haven't you ever noticed some of these shop worn cliches coming out which are meant to play with the minds of those who don't think for themselves?

Almost every move that is made in international politics today is directed toward facilitating this world government. This government will supercede the United Nations which is already in disrepute. It will also be more powerful than the United Nations is today. The nations of Europe are well on the way to being totally unified. The United States is being reduced in power

so that we can be merged into this coming Atlantic government. This is being done by sinking our nation ever deeper into debt from which it is now impossible to extricate ourselves. We will be the slaves of the Internationalists. No one has the determination today to stand up and tell the world the truth—obey Yahweh or suffer His punishment for sin. No one, that is, except the **Assemblies of Yahweh**.

The seeds of world government have been sown for the past century. But the coming government, known as the beast system, will be brought into existence quickly, mainly for the purpose of solidifying the Western World into a bulwark against the eastern nations who are also in great need of Middle Eastern oil, just as in Europe and the United States. While the diplomats of the Western World hail this new world order as a coming era of peace, a war of gigantic magnitude will suddenly break out almost immediately after the final union of the nations. Just as Hitler was determined to build a thousand year reich (that ended in just 12 years), this kingdom will topple also in a very short time. Without the Almighty to direct the efforts of men to form such a government it will never bear good fruit.

The only lasting government will be the Kingdom of Yahweh. Out of the ruins of these end times will arise a **WORLD GOVERNMENT THAT WILL NEVER END**. It will be raised up by Yahshua the Messiah, the Son of Yahweh. It will be truly revolutionary with a restoration of Yahweh's commandments. This world government will stand forever and it will bring about an era of lasting peace and prosperity. This government is called the **Kingdom of Yahweh**.

It has representatives right here on this earth today. Wouldn't you like to become acquainted with some of its citizens? You may do so by drawing closer to the Assemblies of Yahweh, a group whose citizenship is recorded in Heaven, Philippians 3:20. ■